

In 1996, RIWWA saw the beginning of potential water disputes when the Town of Blackstone, MA made noises about the rights to Harris Pond in the Woonsocket Water system. **Mayor Susan Menard** offered to meet with all concerned on the issue. The Towns of Swansea and Rehoboth, MA each lodged water disputes with the Bristol authority on both ground and surface water. The same situation happened with **Naftali Soto** and **Paul Corina** at Westerly Water with the State of Connecticut. **Representative Ed Inman**, now Secretary of State, was awarded the NEWWA Public Service Award, at its Annual Meeting in Newport, for his work as Chair of the Joint Legislative Committee on Water Resources for such things as insuring the lands for the Big River Management Area would remain open space until the reservoir is developed. Both members **John Milano** and **Ray Church** left the PUC. John retired and Ray moved to Providence Water and later to RI Department of Administration. In 1996, Providence Water purchased the Cranston Water System and incorporated it into their retail area. Providence also made overtures to the Town of Johnston, (Water Commissioner **George Corrente**), but that never came to fruition. However, **Mayor Macera** and the Town of Johnston will be putting forth an RFP in 2001 for Operation & Maintenance of its system.

In November of 1996, a major occurrence in RI water supply happened. The 102- inch "lifeline aqueduct" of Providence Water broke and flooded a good portion of Cranston. It also put Warwick, Kent County, and all connected systems on alert for supply availability. The foresight of the City of Providence with two aqueducts prevented this disaster from becoming even worse than it could have been. The Water Resources Board embarked on investigations into groundwater development in the Big River Management Area. Hoping to get up to 10 MGD from the area in the interim of eventual reservoir development, **Paul Sams** and the board engaged the USGS (**Jim Campbell** and **Dave Dickerman**) in these explorations.

In 1997, RIWWA saw Cumberland Water, **Neil Fiorio**, develop a new billing system to relieve the ratepayers of the problems of the past. **Dan Varin** was elected Chair of the WRB. The Town of North Kingstown proposed a moratorium on water line extensions in the town but abandoned the effort in July. The Town of Johnston continued to have pumping problems in the Shun Pike section at the western end of the system. **Dave Barry**, Journal writer, wrote a tongue in cheek (sorry) article about the great 1.6 flush toilet debate in Congress under HR 859 to change the law. He suggested that any agency that spends great time on issues like this be eliminated. Makes sense. The RIWWA membership began and continued to serve on watershed protection committees such as the Stafford Pond committee or the Watershed Approach both clerked by the DEM. A small flood occurred in Pawtucket when a 24-inch main left a 15x20 foot hole in the middle of Lonsdale Ave. **Tom Doucette** and his people had the situation well in hand. In addition, **Jim DeCelles** in N. Smithfield Water added a new well to the system. **Walter Edge**, in a study the WRB commissioned, stated that Stone Bridge FD, Tiverton Water Authority, and N. Tiverton FD (**Lionel Moniz**) should consolidate for very sound fiscal reasons. To date, nothing has happened. However, Lionel, who never missed an RIWWA meeting, went and retired on us.

The year 1998 for RIWWA saw Stone Bridge swapping land to protect its supply and the WRB and BCWA directional drilling under the Providence River for the cross-bay pipeline. The year also saw the dam for Jim's Pond in Peace Dale break and flood out the village making life tuff for our now President **Jon Schock**. Newport endeavored to

privatize both water and sewer resulting in water remaining public. The Town of Lincoln connected to Woonsocket Water and brought back on line a well closed years before because of contamination. The perennial Woonsocket fish fight, over fishing access to the Reservoir #3 awoke, then, as it usually does, goes back to sleep to return another day. The WRB threatened to hold \$820,000 from Woonsocket if fishing is allowed. Health concerns, as they should, end up ruling the day. Providence Water introduced us to **Walter Splash**, their new mascot who extolled the great quality of Scituate water. The debate began on the future of the Ladd Center in Exeter and the Queens-Usquepaug aquifer on which it is located. The debate will be long. South Kingstown became the first RI community to put a cap on building permits. RIWWA monitored these issues. The Town of North Smithfield Water Authority merged with the North Smithfield Industrial Park Water Company with Town Manager **Kenneth Bianchi** reviewing water company assets.

In 1998, Bottled water continues to be fashionable and **Rep. Vincent Mesoella Jr.** becomes embroiled in a water rights battle at Pascoag Reservoir with residents and DEM. Mesoella wins. Pawtucket WSB, **Tom Doucette**, endeavors to purchase the Central Falls distribution system and Providence, **Richard Rafanovic**, does the same with Johnston's system, to no avail. The radon scare in water begins to be replaced in 2001 with the arsenic scare. More scares to follow. **Jeff Ceasrine** and **Jeff Early** of Narragansett Water handle well the town's building boom. The word Partnership becomes a big part of the RIWWA lexicon such as the Pawcatuck Watershed Partnership. Pawtucket WSB looks into privatization and wells tainted with TCE are found in Scituate, but not making it to the reservoir. **President Clinton** visits the Newport Water System and treatment plant facilities. **June Swallow** of DOH orders a step up in crypto monitoring. The year ends with **John Ramos** and **Domenic Soignoli** of BCWA at the controls when Bristol County gets its first taste of Providence Water.

The year 1999 begins with the realization, per the Journal, that fluoride in water really works and arborist **Mathew Largess** actually hugs a tree. The Indeck power plant is proposed near the Slatersville Reservoir. **Susan Rabideau**, formerly of the Peace Corps, continues to teach students about water and the environment. **Wayne Stetson**, long time RIWWA member and former PW Director of Pawtucket and 10 year WRB Chair passes away. Wayne, **Pete Calise**, **Dick Drake** and I won the first RIWWA Golf Tournament in 1982 at Quidnesset CC. Wayne had the prettiest chip of anyone and was as nice a man as could be found. **Jan Reitsma** is named DEM Director and most all think he is a keeper. **Billy Harritos** and **Howard Cohen** blow up one tank and build another down at Quonset Industrial Park. RIWWA water systems now set summer outdoor use rules well before summer. **Professor Mark Gould** of URI noted environmentalist who has worked with RIWWA passes away. Far too many fake water workers are breaking into houses. The word drought pops up every June now as never before.

The year 1999 saw **Pam Marchand** (then Callahan) named as the new General Manager and Chief Engineer of Pawtucket WSB. She has a \$60 million DBO treatment plant to build and \$70 million dollar system upgrade to do. Some people have all the fun. Another tough year for farmers and RIWWA suppliers offer any help they can. **Bill Reynolds** of the Journal writes that every time he buys bottled water P.T. Barnum is laughing at him. RI declared Federal Disaster Area because of dryness. **Pasquale DeLise** says water 80% gone in Anawan Reservoir. **Michael Martin** adds ultra violet

treatment to largest well in North Kingstown. **Chris Modissette**, formerly of Providence Water and now with the Southern NE Forest Consortium works to continue and enhance forests. Water Allocation and Withdrawal is vested at the WRB by the Governor and Legislature. The year ends with **Paul Sams** takes over the RI Economic Development Corporation as Acting Director and I assume as Acting GM of the WRB. The WRB puts up matching monies for DWSRF loan program administered by DOH.

In the year 2000, RIWWA saw **Ted Garille** and the Pascoag Fire District move their office down the street. They are still the only water/electric utility in RI. Region I EPA Director leaves and **Mindy Lubber** assumes command. **Richard Rafanovic** retires from Providence Water but is reappointed to WRB and **Bob Kilduff** becomes new Chief Engineer and General Manager initially in acting capacity and then permanently. A desalting plant is proposed for Dighton, MA. **Joel Saltzman** of Pascoag FD expertly chairs RIWWA RI Science Fair Committee. **Sue Andrade** of BCWA began her chairmanship of RIWWA Water Week Committee with a better than ever week. Bottled water questioned for lack of fluoride. **Jim Suzman** of Smithfield Water, as PW Director, puts all salt piles under domes. Total Maximum Daily Load TMDL becomes a new lexicon. RIWWA mourned the loss of **Ted Sheahan**, Director of Public Works for Warwick. Many RIWWA members will have great memories of a great man who understood how to operate and get things done in a political world. Cumberland Water launches proactive water education program into its schools. Crookfall Brook pipeline for Woonsocket Water goes on line. **Harry Davis** and URI decide to treat their supply. **Paul Gadoury, Jason Herrick, Pat Hughes, Jack Keaney** and more at Providence Water embark on a massive aqueduct rehab at the Scituate treatment plant. The Legislature passes additional legislation that states that the WRB is the only Withdrawal and Allocation authority within the borders of the State of RI.

Stafford Pond in Tiverton receives NE Chapter North American Lakes Management Society Award. Westerly Water will install chlorination process. **Julia Forgue** goes home and is named Public Works Director in Newport. She departs East Providence after 10 years in the same position. New dam legislation is passed and Pascoag FD becomes Pascoag Utility District. I won't say PUD to Ted. **Steve Levey's** Atlantic States Rural Water names Oakland Association's water in Burrillville as best tasting. Scituate votes down, again, a water district for the N. Scituate Village area. Even environmentalists say bottled water is all wet.

Above, I mentioned so many dedicated people who have worked hard to make RIWWA what it is today and continues to be, well respected and looked to for solutions. That will continue with people like **Mike Grilli** and **Helen Priola** who worked on the cross-bay pipe or **Liz Beardsley** who is an expert at an early age. Not many can sell pipe or anything really like **Norm Cherubino** with **Dolores** right there to help. **Chuck Adelsberger** has always been there to help as is **Jim Thompson**. **Ken Booth**, New England's safety expert, knows DEM well and can really spin a tale. **Richard Chiodini** and **Ed Altieri** talked to us about scada while **Harlan Bartlett** and **Ron Belmore** have been supportive for a long time. **Ray Raposa** has always insured that NEWWA has been there to help. While **Todd Chaplin** was with DOH and now he consults. **Mike DeFrancesco** has seen some changes over the years with **Steve Landry** looking at Providence groundwater with **Heb Johnson** and **Carl Destremps** keeps that plant in Tiverton humming. They say two **Crosby's** are better than one so how great is that

Providence lab with **Nancy and Fred**. Come to think of it, the same is true for **Hogle's** with **Bette and Steve**. **Bob Desaluniers** of Warwick backs up Dan and is always there for us while **Nancy Kurowski** has always been our heart and sole. If it wasn't for **Carol Lariviere** in Woonsocket, Jim Marvel never would have been free to do his good work. **Bob and Peg Lawton** never say no when we ask for help and "**The Chief**" will never be forgotten. **Dan Mahoney** and **Tom MacElhaney** always keep things moving while **Jim McCormick** and **Mike Munroe** just keep things operating without fanfare. **Dave Powers** clerks our works in Greenville and "Mr. Wizard", **Paul Riendeau**, just keeps teaching the kids. **Art Williams** watches those books in Kent while **Paul Titzmann**, **Mike Russo**, and **Tricia McVickers** shows that Richard brought in some great people. Wiley brought **Jeanne Bondarevskis** to Providence. **Jerry Healy** came down from MA to help us in 95, at great risk. Both **Galen McGovern** and **Tom Nicholson** left RI water but Tom is with us in Woonsocket along with **Russ Houde** while Galen is writing. Don't hold it against **Tony Zuena** that he is my cousin and that he was always the last one called on in class. **Adam Yanulis** chairs our programs now and **Carl Maine**, I bet, can still scare EPA.

Some of us retired and those not previously mentioned include our friend and hard worker **Ed Girard**. **Russ Horne** and **Pappy Janjigian** were there in the beginning while **Bill Mahoney** will always be the Lab Man. **Al Schwartz** fixed Forestdale for us and **Frank Nunes** regulated us well from the PUC. **Norm** "the Saint" **St. Sauver** was and will always be an original and the late **Harry McKanna** knew the ropes better than anyone. **Stan Wick** was Johns Manville. Norm Cherubino and I always wanted to be **Ray Lynch** when we grew up. Many of us remember **Danny Robinson** of Narragansett who left us too soon or **George Allaire** who left for the Cape many years ago but who pops up now and then. **Bill Spaulding** of Lincoln preceded Mo and we should never underestimate how important those iron pipe people made RIWWA what it is today. State planning always gave us their best such as **Kathy Leddy** and **Mia Peck** and the next twenty years will be even better as we add newcomers like **Nancy Hess**.

In 2001, MTBE became a real problem in the Pascoag system for 5 months until Harrisville FD with **Don Mehrstens** and **Scott George** provided clean water. 2002 began at the annual meeting in December of 01 with almost a entire new Executive Committee of **Julia Forgue**, President; **Steve Goslee**, Vice-president; **Dave Powers**, Secretary; **Jeanne Bondarevskis** as Treasurer and **Jon Schock** finalizing his term as the Past President. **Mo Trudeau** retired to making furniture and **Ed Bondarevskis**, an old school engineer in the best sense, past away. We all will be looking forward to the 2010 history write-up about all the great things RIWWA accomplished in that decade also.